

BLOOMINGTON ARTS COMMISSION (BAC)

Feb 12, 2014 meeting, McCloskey Conference Room

ATTENDING: Peter Jacobi, Jean Kautt, Alain Barker, Abby Henkel, Sally Gaskill, Craig Widen, Jan Grant

ABSENT: Martina Celerin, Paul Sturm, Lynn Schwartzberg

EX OFFICIO: Miah Michaelson (City staff liaison), Sarah Mihich (Intern)

GUESTS: Mark Tschida

Jan called the meeting to order at 5:15pm. New intern Sarah Mihich was introduced.

Approval of Minutes December 10 and January 8, 2014

Sally found some grammatical errors to January 8 minutes. December minutes approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report-Presented by Craig Widen

402 Municipal Arts is at 87,930.95 basically 25,000 above from last year. 403 operating is at 13,305, a little more than last year. Next expenditure of funds will be our grants in April. The financials were approved.

Staff Report-presented by Miah, as per email and addition

Public Art - Both projects are in Fabrication

BEAD - There was not a January meeting for BEAD. The next meeting will be February 17th in the McCloskey Conference Room. There will be a presentation from Arts Administration international students on marketing to Chinese students.

Exhibits - The Lotus, "Power by Pattern", is the Atrium Exhibit for February. They recently received a grant from the NEA, \$30,000 for next year's Lotus Festival.

Other - Miah participated in Arts Day on January 27th, 2014. Local Clay, Spinners & Weavers Guild & Glass Guild joining forces to put their shows at the Convention Center November 14 & 15.

Old Business-Presented by Miah

South Walnut Streetscape Sculpture - There was no support for the bench. Two choices were suggested for them: propose something else, keep the column as scaled and decrease the budget or increase the size.

A single column can meet the spirit of the project. Administration has signed off on the project. Is the commission is ok with making the column bigger in scale? Martina said through email that she loves the new scale. Craig: What made this change necessary? Miah: The artists did not have complete figures on the cost of the project before making the proposal. Sally: Could the gateway could be at a different location? Miah: This is the only site identified for the project. Miah showed the website for the project which explains how the artists propose to solicit words and impressions about Bloomington then the artist will curate these words and ideas into the column. Sally: Will there still be a small bench? Abby: It does not feel like a gateway anymore it feels more like a landmark. Jan: What are our options, the money has already been allocated. Do we say yes or move on? Jean: It still looks like it could be really cool, it is time to move forward and it will be well done. Craig: Are they still calling it a gateway project? Miah: As far as I knows, yes. Then Miah showed some photos, and a Google Map of the location. Peter: Can we revisit the second pillar next year? Miah: Yes, we can do even a different piece at that

BLOOMINGTON ARTS COMMISSION (BAC)

Feb 12, 2014 meeting, McCloskey Conference Room

location next year or do something similar or the second pillar. Abby: Could artists get upset with adding a different piece to this location and could it be possible to create the second pillar next year? Miah: The pillars are being fabricated in Columbus, so it would be possible to create the second pillar at a future date. Alain moved to accept the new column height; Peter seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Grants –Presented by Miah

Finalize guidelines for April 2014 – Miah: The changes are in red on the guidelines sheet. The first item is the maximum amount of how much each organization could receive. We need to finalize the maximum total. Sally: Bring the total up to \$2,000. Peter: Disagrees and thinks it should stay at \$1,200. Miah: If \$1,750 would be ok for a compromise. Alain: \$1,500 would not be much. Jan: If we can get consensus here and vote later, might \$1,500 be the most impactful? Jean: For those who apply in both in April and October, so it makes sense to offer more for a one time, it will flow down to other organizations. Sally moved to accept the new maximum total at \$1,500; Abby seconded; 6 in favor, 1 opposed. Motion carried.

Miah started the conversation about the project period. Sally: Some organizations start planning in June and the project is in January, would they qualify for the new project period? Abby: Why don't we say June 1st through March 30th? Alain: We could say the "planning" should begin or "production". Abby: Projects must take place within a whole year. Sally: Why don't we say project must "take place" from June 1st to May 31st, 2015?

The conversation continued with discussion about the application process. Miah: We have purchased an online submission application, Adobe FormCentral. All applications will be submitted electronically with instructions.

Discussion moved to art discipline categories. Miah: Ok with the categories listed in the application? There was a consensus that the category Art Education should be deleted because it is not considered a discipline. Miah: Once the changes are made to the application, I will send it out to everyone electronically. Jan: Do we need to vote. Alain moved to accept the art categories; Sally seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Finalize process and outreach. Jan opened this discussion by proposing the following questions that needed to be addressed, what we want applicants to do, what we should be doing as commissioners and the actual preparation for the review. The way we will be viewing the actual applications will be through Excel and PDF. Miah: Cut back the "new info" presentation by arts organizations to 2 minutes and that there could be a 1st and 2nd reader. Also, that the scores will not be projected. Alain: How will we score? Miah: On a scoresheet, scores will not be shared in the meeting. Sally: We need to have adequate time to have a robust conversation about each applicant. Peter: When did we decide on having a 1st and 2nd reader? Miah: We never did, it was suggested that this will be a way for every application to be heard and to be discussed. Craig: The facilitator could run that. Peter: Don't like the idea of 1st and 2nd reader. Craig: 1st and 2nd reader could take time away from the applicants sharing new information. Miah: The workshop will assist organizations with their applications so we can talk them through the process, presentation on new information. Craig: The workshop is a great opportunity to tell the applicants to not re-read their application but only present new information. Jan: It is tricky to stop the applicants from talking, how long do we let them keep talking when we are trying to build a relationship? Jean: There is no obligation to do a presentation, just be here to answer

BLOOMINGTON ARTS COMMISSION (BAC)

Feb 12, 2014 meeting, McCloskey Conference Room

questions, no presentation, and just invite them to answer questions on any new information. Vote on having the 1st reader, 5 in favor, 2 opposed. Motion carried.

Cut-off for scoring. Alain and Jean: We do not know how many people will apply this year and what kinds of applications will be received, so it's hard to consider a cut-off score. Miah: In the future we need to set the floor and communicate that to the applicants so they know if they score below a certain number they more than likely won't be funded. Sally: Could Miah give us three cutoff score options to consider. Jan: Is it fair for applicants to have a moving target each year? Miah: What do we want to accomplish tonight? I can give a staff recommendations for a cut-off and the Commission can vote, but in the future we should have cut-off score. Three funding options for Commissions to consider was approved by acclamation.

Commissioner's Outreach-Presented by Miah

Sarah M. last week sent out what would be included on our website on the Creative Assistance Initiative; it is also included in the meeting packet. The page for Creative Assistance Initiative will be a page added onto the BAC's website and there will be a form to fill out. If there are no issues we will move forward and will send out the News Release before making the website public. We will be doing a bigger push to make the public aware of the program.

Lotus Sculpture-Presented by Miah

Lotus proposed another location for the sculpture. The walkway on 4th by Fountain Square Mall. They are interested in areas by the Waldron Art Center. They are open to ideas for other locations and ideas for the whole scope of the project.

New Business-Presented by Miah

Press Puzzles - Mark Tschida creates custom wooden puzzles. He is interested in partnering with the Arts Commission to make puzzles from the Arts Commissions old postcards to use as gifts or for sale. Craig: Are the postcards surplus? Miah: Yes.

Blooming Neighborhoods - Blooming Neighborhoods is a community-based art exhibit sponsored by the Department of Housing and Neighborhood Development (HAND) in partnership with the City of Bloomington Arts Commission celebrating the neighbors of Bloomington. This exhibit will coincide with HAND's Blooming Neighborhood Awards on June 7th. The exhibit will feature work that showcases neighborhoods of Bloomington – their architecture, environment, people and activities.

Voces Novae - Voces Novae is a musical ensemble who performs at unexpected locations. They want to do 2 free concerts at RoseHill and on the B-Line. The Parks department requires a \$25 dollar fee for each concert. Miah proposes the Arts Commission pay for this fee of a total of \$50. Approved by acclamation.

Arts & Numbers Workshop - The BAC and BEAD will be hosting an Arts & Numbers Workshop on August 16th and 17th. Inviting Elaine Luttrull to do a two day workshop covering financial challenges faced by creative entrepreneurs (specifically visual artists and performing artists).

Bike and Ped Commission grant program - This grant program is to encourage projects related to bikes and mobility. The Bike and Ped Commission is basing their grant application and process on the BAC's grant process and application. Arts projects will be eligible. No word yet on when the program will begin.

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Advocacy – Sally mentioned National Arts Advocacy Day and brought up President Obama's gaffe about Art History majors during his speech in Wisconsin.

Meeting was adjourned by Miah at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Mihich, Intern.